# GUNSLINGERS™

MIKE RICHARDSON

JORDI ARMENGOL

JIM CAMPBELL

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STORY BY MIKE RICHARDSON

ART BY JORDI ARMENGOL

LETTERS BY JIM CAMPBELL

DARK HORSE BOOKS

She taught me how to write. She taught me how to read. She taught me how to live.
In loving memory of my mother, Margarita Carner (1940 – 2024).
-JORDI


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SPECIAL THANKS TO VANESSA SENA.



GUNSLINGERS™

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1871. A SMALL TOWN SOMEWHERE IN KANSAS.

TWELVE YEARS OLD TODAY, JOSIE. THERE'S SOME TAFFY AND A NICE NEW DRESS WAITING AT THE GENERAL STORE.

REALLY, PA?

LUCAS, WHAT'S GOING ON UP AHEAD?

BAM
BAM
BAM
YAHOO!
BAM
BAM
HEY ANDY, WHERE ARE THE LADIES? WHAT KIND OF PARTY IS THIS ANYWAY?
BAM
BAM
BAM
LADIES? DID YOU FORGET I'M GETTING MARRIED IN TWO DAYS?

BAM BAM

WHO ARE THEY, PA?

LOOKS LIKE SOME BOYS OUT FOR A GOOD TIME. NO BUSINESS OF OURS.

DON'T BOTHER THEM AND THEY WON'T BOTHER US.

YOU'D BETTER STAY OUT HERE WITH THE WAGON, KATHRINE. THAT GUNFIRE MAY SPOOK THE HORSES.

VERY WELL, BUT *PLEASE* HURRY.

HEY, BIRTHDAY GIRL, STAY OUT HERE WITH YOUR MOTHER AND MAYBE I'LL FIND SOME TAFFY WHILE I'M INSIDE. HOW'D YOU LIKE THAT?

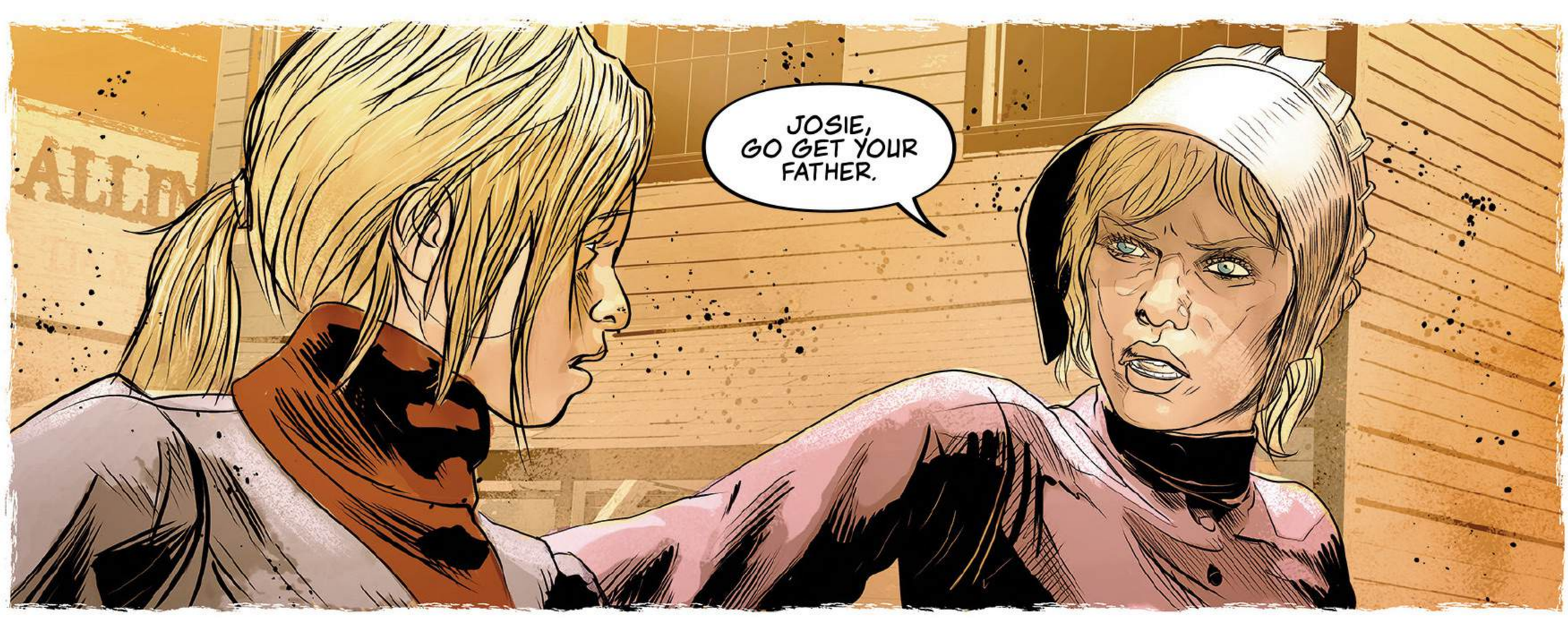
SURE, PA.

THIS IS GETTIN' OLD. LET'S FIND US SOME LADIES.

YEAH, WHERE'S THE GIRLS?

HEY NOW! THERE'S A PRETTY LITTLE THING.

SHE DON'T LOOK HALF BAD.
TAKE IT EASY, BOYS.


JOSIE, GO GET YOUR FATHER.

HEY DARLIN', WATCHA SAY YOU CLIMB ON DOWN AND JOIN THE PARTY?

GO BACK TO YOUR DRINKIN', BOYS, AND LET ME BE.

DON'T BE LIKE THAT. C'MON DOWN AND HAVE SOME FUN.

YEAH, WE WON'T HURT YA.

LET ME GO!

GENERAL STORE

AW, DON'T BE THAT WAY.

C'MON, HONEY. DON'T PLAY SO HARD TO GET.

WHY DON'T YOU GET ON DOWN? PRETTY PLEASE?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!

OKAY, BOYS. THAT'S ENOUGH. LET HER GO.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
GENERAL STORE

KEEP YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF OF HER!
SMACK

WAIT, MISTER! HE DIDN'T HAVE THAT COMIN'.

YEAH? WELL, YOU GOT IT COMING TOO!

HEY, LET HIM GO!

DID YOU HEAR ME?

I HEARD YOU.

WHAP

I WARNED YOU!

BLAM

LUCAS!

PA...

JACK, WHAT DID YOU DO? YOU HAD NO CALL TO GO AND SHOOT HIM.

DUMB SODBUSTER SHOULD'VE LISTENED TO ME. I WASN'T GONNA LET HIM SMACK YOU AROUND.

WELL, YOU KILLED HIM ALL RIGHT. HE'S GOOD 'N DEAD.

THAT'S JUST GREAT.

WATCH OUT, SHE'S GOT A GUN!

BLAM

MAMA!

WHAT THE--

I DIDN'T HAVE NO CHOICE...

WELL, YOU'VE GONE AND DONE IT NOW. I'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO TO MY FATHER.

WHAT WAS I S'POSED TO DO? SHE WAS GONNA SHOOT ME.

I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE THE SHERIFF SHOWS UP.

YOU JUST GONNA LEAVE THEM THERE?

I CAN'T AFFORD TO GET ARRESTED. LEAVE 'EM.

WHAT ABOUT HER?

SHE SAW EVERYTHING.

SHE'S JUST A LITTLE GIRL...

LEAVE HER.

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT HERE?

Oh, MY DEAR GOD...

PAPA, GET UP...

PAPA...

THE NEXT DAY.

SHERIFF, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO ABOUT THE SHOOTINGS?

RIGHT OUT IN BROAD DAYLIGHT...

THE McGEARY BOY WAS SEEN HIGHTAILIN' IT OUTTA TOWN.

YOU GONNA ARREST HIM, OR DOES OLD MAN McGEARY HOLD TOO MUCH SWAY IN THIS TOWN?

THE GIRL'S AN ORPHAN NOW. WHO'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HER?

WELL, THIS JAIL CELL AIN'T NO PLACE FOR A YOUNG GIRL.

ALL OF YOU, JUST HOLD YOUR HORSES. FROM THE GIRL'S DESCRIPTIION, I DON'T THINK IT WAS McGEARY'S SON THAT DID THE SHOOTING...

I'M NOT FILING CHARGES AGAINST ***ANYONE*** UNTIL I CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION.

HELLO, SHERIFF.

***ANDREW?***

PA WANTED ME TO COME IN AND EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED. IT WAS A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY, BUT IT WASN'T OUR FAULT.

ME AND THE BOYS WERE WHOOPING IT UP A BIT, WHAT WITH MY WEDDING COMING UP SATURDAY AND ALL.

NO ONE MEANT ANY HARM, BUT THAT SODBUSTER COME RACING OUT OF THE GENERAL AND ATTACKED MY HIRED HAND LIKE A CRAZY MAN.

WEREN'T NO CALL FOR IT.

AND THEN THAT WOMAN AIMED HER GUN RIGHT AT HIM. I THOUGHT HE WAS GOOD AS DEAD.

LUCKY FOR US, JACK SAW HER ABOUT TO SHOOT AND TOOK HER DOWN.

WISH IT HADN'T HAPPENED...

...BUT THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD HAVE DONE TO PREVENT IT.

A MAN'S GOT A RIGHT TO DEFEND HIMSELF.

HE'S RIGHT, SHERIFF.

THANKS FOR CLEARING THINGS UP, ANDY. A CLEAR CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE IF THERE EVER WAS SUCH A THING.

I GUESS THAT'S TRUE, MAYOR.

YOU CAN GO, ANDREW. I'LL FILE A REPORT, AND THERE'LL BE SOME QUESTIONS, BUT THEY'RE JUST A FORMALITY.

THANKS, SHERIFF. REAL SORRY ABOUT ALL THIS. DON'T KNOW WHAT GOT INTO THOSE SODBUSTERS.

TELL YOUR DAD HELLO FOR ME.

I'LL DO THAT.

WHY, YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM YESTERDAY.

REAL SORRY ABOUT YOUR FOLKS, HONEY. A REAL SHAME.

WHOA THERE, LITTLE LADY.

WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' WITH THAT GUN?

BLAM

YOU... SHOT ME...

THAT WAS FOR MY PAPA.

W...WAIT...

AND THIS IS FOR MY MAMA.

BLAM

WHAT DID YOU DO, GIRL? DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU JUST SHOT?!

HE LIED. THEY KILLED MY PARENTS.

GET EVERYONE OUT OF HERE.

AND YOU...GIVE ME THAT GUN.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU NOW?

IT WAS MY BIRTHDAY. I WAS GOING TO GET A NEW DRESS.

THERE'LL BE *HELL TO PAY* WHEN OLD MAN McGEARY FINDS OUT.

YEAH...AND WE'RE THE ONES GONNA PAY FOR IT.

GET DOC MORTENSON. TELL HIM WE'VE GOT A DEAD MAN HERE, BUT DON'T TELL HIM WHO.

I'M LOCKING HER UP.

WHAT ABOUT HER?

I'LL RIDE OUT TO McGEARY'S BEFORE WORD GETS OUT. BETTER THAT I'M THE ONE TO LET HIM KNOW.

McGEARY? ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU KNOW HOW HE'LL REACT.

YOU, MISSY, CAN SIT IN HERE UNTIL I FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOT THAT MAN.

THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOT MY PARENTS.

THINK I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL? I LOST MY PARENTS WHEN I WAS YOUNG LIKE YOU...

...BUT YOU STILL SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOT HIM.

I DIDN'T "LOSE" MY MA AND PA, THEY WERE SHOT AND-- KILLED.

THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT YOU JUST KILLED THE SON OF A MAN WHO'S BIG IN THESE PARTS...

...AND WHAT'S WORSE IS YOU HAD TO GO AND USE MY GUN TO DO IT.

HOURS LATER.

HELLO, WILL. WHAT BRINGS YOU OUT HERE?

I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS, ROBERT. MAYBE BEST TO SPEAK IN PRIVATE.

LET'S GO INTO THE HOUSE. IF YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY, IT MUST BE IMPORTANT.

IT IS.

SHERIFF

MY BOY? DEAD? I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

HE'S GETTIN' MARRIED. HE CAN'T BE DEAD.

HE'S DEAD. DOC MORTEN'S GOT THE BODY.

I'M SORRY, ROBERT. I TRULY AM.

YOU'RE SORRY?!

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL WALKED INTO YOUR OFFICE WITH A LOADED .45 AND SHOT MY SON DEAD AND YOU'RE SORRY?

IT WASN'T LIKE THAT.

NO? THEN YOU TELL ME WHAT IT WAS LIKE.

IS THE GIRL SOME KIND OF GUN-SLINGER?

YOU MIGHT AS WELL HEAR IT FROM ME. SHE GRABBED A PISTOL FROM A GUNBELT HANGING FROM A COATRACK.

YOUR GUN?

MY GUN.

HAVE YOUR MAN THERE TAKE HIS HAND OFF THAT PISTOL. HE'S MAKING ME NERVOUS.

MAX? HE WAS CLOSE TO MY SON.

YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIS ANGER AT HEARING HIS FRIEND WAS MURDERED.

THEN YOU'LL UNDERSTAND HOW THE GIRL FELT WHEN ANDREW AND HIS FRIENDS KILLED HER FOLKS.

ANDREW TOLD ME THEY ACTED IN SELF-DEFENSE.

AND IT DOESN'T MATTER...

I SENT MY SON IN TO TOWN TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED, AND HE WAS KILLED FOR IT.

THIS HAPPENED BECAUSE YOUR SON AND HIS FRIENDS WERE DRINKING AND SHOOTING UP THE TOWN.

LUCAS AND KATHRINE FULLER ENDED UP DEAD.

FULLER? YOU SAY THE GIRL'S NAME IS FULLER?

I'M GOING TO WARN YOUR MAN ONE MORE TIME TO TAKE HIS HAND AWAY FROM THAT GUN.

MAX, DO WHAT HE SAYS.

YES, JOSEPHINE FULLER. TWELVE YEARS OLD. WHAT DO ***YOU*** THINK I SHOULD DO WITH HER?

SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW RIGHT FROM WRONG.

SO GIVE HER A FAIR TRIAL.

AND WHEN THE GUILTY VERDICT COMES IN...

...HANG HER.

SHORTLY.

GO ON UP TO THE HOUSE, JACK. MR. McGEARY WANTS TO SEE YOU.

WHAT'S HE WANT? IS THIS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED IN TOWN?

HE'LL LET YOU KNOW.

NEVER MIND. I DECIDED TO COME DOWN HERE.

SLAM

MR. McGEARY...

MY SON'S DEAD, JACK.

WHAT? ANDY IS DEAD? BUT HOW...?

YES. HE'S DEAD, SON. AND YOU KILLED HIM.

THAT'S NOT TRUE. I SAVED HIM.

YOU SHOT THOSE PEOPLE, AND NOW MY SON IS DEAD!

MR. McGEARY, PLEASE!

THUD

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT HIM!

SWACK

NO, BOSS!

YOU'LL KILL HIM!

PAY HIM WHAT HE'S OWED AND GET HIM OFF THE RANCH.

ONE WEEK LATER.

HARDWARE & MINING SUPPLIES

WARNER & CO

JACKSONS HOTEL

IT'S A DAMN SHAME ABOUT THAT GIRL. SHOULD BE SOME OTHER WAY TO DEAL WITH HER, CONSIDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO HER PARENTS.

SLAM

WHICH ONE OF YOU IS THE SHERIFF?

I'M THE SHERIFF. WHY DON'T YOU PUT THAT GUN AWAY AND TELL ME WHY YOU'RE HERE?

I'M HERE FOR JOSEPHINE FULLER.

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S A PROBLEM, BECAUSE SHE'S NOT HERE.

THEN I'LL THANK YOU TO TELL ME WHERE SHE IS.

WHAT RIGHT YOU GOT COMIN' IN HERE, POINTING A FIREARM AT THE SHERIFF, AND DEMANDING THAT GIRL?

SHUT UP, MARTIN. YOU'RE NOT HELPING.

YOU NEED TO TELL ME WHERE SHE IS, BECAUSE I'M TAKING HER WITH ME.

THAT MIGHT BE DIFFICULT, SINCE SHE'S BEING HELD FOR MURDER.

THE WAY I HEARD IT, SHE SHOT THE MAN WHO KILLED HER PARENTS. SEEMS LIKE A GOOD REASON FOR KILLING A MAN.

THAT MAY BE, BUT HE DIDN'T DO THE SHOOTING.

THE MAN SHE SHOT WAS ROBERT McGEARY'S SON.

THERE'S GONNA BE A TRIAL, AND I'M GUESSING THEY'LL FIND HER GUILTY AND HANG HER.

MARTIN, I TOLD YOU TO KEEP YOUR TRAP SHUT!

TRIAL? YOU'RE GOING TO HANG A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL?

KLIK

SHE'S OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU CAN'T GO AROUND KILLING PEOPLE.

YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

I DO.

THEN YOU KNOW MY REPUTATION.

I'M AWARE.

THEN I'D ADVISE YOU TO TELL ME WHERE THE GIRL IS, OR I'LL PUT A BULLET RIGHT BETWEEN YOUR TWO EYES.

SHE'S AT MABLE REDDING'S HOUSE, ABOUT A MILE SOUTH OF TOWN. THERE'S A SIDE GARDEN. YOU CAN'T MISS IT.

DON'T MIND TELLING YOU, GUN OR NO GUN, IT ISN'T RIGHT FOR ANYONE TO HANG A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

THEY AIN'T HANGIN' NO TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT. THE VICTIM'S FATHER IS KNOWN AROUND THESE PARTS FOR GETTING WHAT HE WANTS, AND HE WANTS HER HANGED.

I KNOW McGEARY, BUT IT MAKES NO MATTER TO ME.

SHE AIN'T HANGIN'.

YOU KNOW THEY'LL COME AFTER YOU.

I KNOW.

WHY'D YOU GO AND TELL HIM WHERE THE GIRL IS?

OLD MAN McGEARY WILL GO PLUMB LOCO.

YOU KNOW WHO THAT WAS?

ETHAN FULLER.

THE GUNFIGHTER?

THAT'S RIGHT.

*WAIT,* THE GIRL'S NAME IS--

JOSEPHINE FULLER.

YOU MEAN...

YEP.

I'M THINKING ETHAN FULLER IS KIN TO THE GIRL.

AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO GET SHOT SO THAT ROBERT McGEARY CAN HAVE HIS REVENGE.

DON'T THAT BEAT ALL. DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE HIM IN THE FLESH.

YEAH, YOU WERE REAL LUCKY.

LUCKY? HOW'S THAT?

SHERIFF

YOU'RE STILL HERE TO TALK ABOUT IT.

LATER, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

EXCUSE ME, MA'AM. WOULD YOU BE MABLE REDDING?

AND IF I WAS?

I'M HERE TO PICK UP JOSEPHINE.

AND WHO WOULD SHE BE?

NO USE LYING. SHERIFF TOLD ME SHE WAS HERE.

THE SHERIFF TOLD YOU?

HE DID, AND I'D BE MUCH OBLIGED IF YOU'D HURRY AND FETCH HER.

HENRY... YOU COME ON OUT HERE.

JUST HERE FOR THE GIRL. DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE.

WE'RE NOT OFFERING ANY.

YOU CALLED?

THIS MAN SAYS HE'S HERE FOR THE GIRL.

*ETHAN FULLER?* THE SHERIFF SENT A *GUNFIGHTER?*

NEVER SAID HE SENT ME, AND I AIN'T NO GUNFIGHTER...

NOT ANYMORE.

I SAW YOU GUN DOWN A MAN IN ABILENE YEARS AGO.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD, BUT YOU'VE JUST GOTTEN OLD.

DON'T GO AND TAKE OFFENSE. IT WAS A FAIR FIGHT, AND I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN' BY IT.

YEAH? YOU'RE NO SPRING CHICKEN YOURSELF.

BUT TELL ME, WHY WOULD A FELLA LIKE YOU WANT THAT GIRL?

SHE'S MY GRANDDAUGHTER, AND I MEAN TO TAKE HER AWAY FROM HERE.

DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE, SO I'D THANK YOU TO GO FETCH HER AND WE'LL BE ON OUR WAY.

OF COURSE, "FULLER." I SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT. GRAND-FATHER?

I AM.

WELL, I GUESS HE'S GOT A RIGHT TO HER. I'LL GO GET HER.

YOU'RE A GUNFIGHTER.

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

WHERE YOU TAKIN' HER?

FAR AWAY FROM HERE TO A PLACE SHE'LL BE SAFE. I OWE IT TO HER FATHER.

HE SAYS YOU'RE MY GRAND-FATHER.

IF THAT'S SO, HOW COME I NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE?

THAT'S A LONG STORY. RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO GET YOU AS FAR AWAY FROM HERE AS POSSIBLE.

I'M GLAD YOU CAME. THAT McGEARY BOY WAS ALWAYS TROUBLE. CAN'T SEE HER BEING PUNISHED AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO HER FOLKS.

I BROUGHT A HORSE FOR HER. EXTRA GENTLE SO SHE WON'T HAVE NO TROUBLE.

TROUBLE? I BEEN RIDING HORSES ALL MY LIFE.

WELL, YOU'LL NEED SOME GRUB. COME ON INSIDE AND I'LL SEE WHAT WE CAN SPARE.

THANK YOU, MA'AM. I BROUGHT SOME, BUT I'D BE OBLIGED.

SHORTLY.

I WONDER IF WE DID THE RIGHT THING.

DON'T MATTER NOW.

BESIDES, I NEVER DID ABIDE HANGING A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL.

ROBERT McGEARY WON'T BE HAPPY.

TO HELL WITH THE McGEARYS.

I'M HAPPY HE COME AND TOOK HER AWAY.

AND SO AM I. I LIKED THAT GIRL.

WELL THEN, WE DONE THE RIGHT THING AFTER ALL.

DAYS LATER.

HELLO, WILL.

HELLO, ROBERT. I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU.

WHOA! DON'T SHOOT! IT'S JUST A WHITTLIN' KNIFE!

MAC, PUT THAT GUN AWAY. DID YOU THINK THE DEPUTY WAS DRAWING ON YOU?

SORRY, BOSS.

I UNDERSTAND YOU SENT ETHAN FULLER TO PICK UP THAT GIRL.

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY HOW IT WAS.

REALLY? YOU TOLD HIM WHERE THE GIRL WAS, AND NOW SHE'S GONE.

DID YOU FORGET SHE MURDERED MY SON?

NO, BUT HE HAD A PISTOL TO MY FACE. WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

I MADE YOU SHERIFF, WILL, BECAUSE YOU WERE GOOD WITH A GUN.

THEY SAID YOU WEREN'T AFRAID OF ANYBODY.

SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY YOU'VE GONE SOFT.

I'M SORRY YOU FEEL THAT WAY, ROBERT.

AS YOU KNOW, I PRIDE MYSELF ON KEEPING MY WORD.

SO FETCH THAT GIRL, OR YOU'LL BE BACK SHOVELING HORSESHIT OR WHATEVER IT WAS YOU DID BEFORE I GAVE YOU THIS JOB.

HAVE I MADE MYSELF CLEAR?

YOU COULDN'T BE CLEARER.

HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO.

I'LL PAY TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE MAN WHO BRINGS HER BACK.

THAT SHOULD ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO YOUR JOB FOR YOU.

YOU'RE A GENEROUS MAN, ROBERT.

I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP.

I'M GLAD WE COULD COME TO THIS UNDERSTANDING.

NEVER LIKED THAT MAN.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE. POST THE REWARD. SHE'S OFFICIALLY ***WANTED*** NOW.

EVERY BOUNTY HUNTER IN THE TERRITORY WILL BE WANTIN' TO COLLECT.

WITH THAT REWARD, WE DON'T NEED TO RAISE NO POSSE.

I DON'T WANT McGEARY ON MY BACK. PUT THE POSSE TOGETHER. THE RANDALL BROTHERS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE.

THEM LOWLIFES? WHY'S McGEARY SO BLAMED DETERMINED TO SEE THAT GIRL HUNG, ANYWAY?

I'D GUESS IT'S BECAUSE HE'S GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE.

A SCORE?

CALL IT A GRUDGE. BEEN SIMMERING A LONG TIME.

NOW GO RAISE THAT POSSE.

YOU LET THE SHERIFF OFF PRETTY EASY.

*EASY?* YOU THINK I SHOULDA *SHOT* HIM?

I JUST MEAN--

I *KNOW* WHAT YOU MEAN.

I NEED HIM TO HELP BRING THAT GIRL IN. NO REASON TO DO ANYTHING RASH RIGHT NOW.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

OF COURSE I'M RIGHT.

RIGHT NOW I WANT YOU TO GATHER SOME GOOD MEN.

BRING THAT GIRL BACK HERE TO STAND TRIAL.

AND *HANG.*

I HAVE A QUESTION.

YOU'RE FINALLY TALKING TO ME? WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER TWO DAYS, AND YOU HAVEN'T SAID TWO WORDS.

ARE YOU REALLY MY GRANDFATHER?

I AM.

MY FATHER SAID YOU USED TO SHOOT PEOPLE.

NOT GONNA LIE. I SHOT SOME PEOPLE.

NOT PROUD OF IT. NOT A GOOD FEELING TO KILL A PERSON.

I GUESS YOU KNOW THAT.

YOU DON'T KNOW ME. WE NEVER EVEN MET BEFORE...

SO WHY?

WHY? BECAUSE WE'RE KIN.

THEY COULDN'T HANG ME, AND THEY SURE AS HELL WON'T HANG YOU.

MY FATHER SAID YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE. HE SAID YOU WERE JUST A GUNFIGHTER.

BACK THEN HE WASN'T WRONG.

LET'S JUST SAY I WAS A DIFFERENT PERSON. I DID BAD THINGS, LIVED BY THE GUN.

YOUR FATHER DIDN'T WANT YOU AROUND ME. HE WAS RIGHT.

BUT HE WAS WRONG WHEN IT CAME TO YOU. I DO CARE.

AND LIKE IT OR NOT, I'M YOUR GRANDPA.

I NEVER GOT ALONG WITH YOUR PA.

I WAS AWAY WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, AND HE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME WHEN HE GOT OLDER.

WHEN YOU WERE BORN, I TRIED HARD TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE.

TOO MANY YEARS, TOO MUCH HURT.

NOTHING I COULD DO TO CHANGE THAT...

...UNTIL NOW.

I'M TAKIN' YOU TO A PLACE THEY WON'T FIND YOU. A PLACE YOU'LL BE SAFE.

SO WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?

SOMEWHERE A GIRL CAN GROW UP PROPER.

IT'S THE ONE GOOD THING I CAN DO FOR YOU BEFORE I'M GONE.

THERE'S ONE MORE THING...

KEEP THIS WITH YOU. YOU KNOW HOW TO USE IT?

I SURE GUESS I DO. PAPA TAUGHT ME.

KEEP IT WITH YOU. YOU'LL NEED IT.

WILL THEY COME AFTER US?

THEY WILL.

WE GAINED SOME TIME BY BACKTRACKIN' A FEW MILES BACK, BUT IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THEY PICK UP OUR TRAIL.

WE'RE UP EARLY, SO GET SOME SHUT-EYE WHILE YOU CAN.

:SNIFF:

YOU'RE CRYING?

THEY KILLED MY MAMA AND PAPA, AND NOBODY CARES.

THAT AIN'T SO, GIRL.

SOMEBODY CARES, BUT YOU GO AHEAD AND CRY. YOU'LL FEEL BETTER IN THE MORNIN' FOR IT.

MORNING.

THEY AIN'T FAR AHEAD.

YEAH, THAT WAS A GOOD IDEA, RIDIN' ALL NIGHT.

GOOD IDEA? I'M FALLIN' ASLEEP IN THE SADDLE. GOOD IDEA MY ASS.

STEPHEN, IF YOU AIN'T THE WHININGEST CRITTER I EVER DID SEE. SHUT YOUR PIE HOLE AND QUIT COMPLAININ'.

SHUT UP, BOTH OF YOU. WE'RE ALMOST ON 'EM, AND I DON'T NEED YOU GIVIN' US AWAY.

CAN'T HELP IT, WILLIAM. I AIN'T SLEPT FOR TWO DAYS. I'M TIRED AND I'M HUNGRY.

YEAH? WE GET THE REWARD FOR THAT GIRL AND I BET YOU WON'T SLEEP FOR TWO MORE.

NOW LET'S RIDE.

THE NEXT DAY.

DAMN. THIS IS A PROBLEM...

WHAT'S WRONG?

HORSE SPRUNG A SHOE. GONNA SLOW US DOWN.

SPRUNG?

SHOE'S BENT.

IS HE HURT?

NO, BUT HE WILL BE.

I'LL HAVE TO GET HIM SHOED OR WE WON'T GET FAR.

YOU LOVE THAT HORSE, DON'T YOU?

DON'T KNOW, I GUESS I DO.

ME AND THIS OLD FELLA BEEN TOGETHER FOR A LONG TIME.

DOES HE HAVE A NAME?

NO NAME. JUST A HORSE.

I GUESS THAT'S HIS NAME-- "HORSE."

I KNOW A LITTLE TOWN A FEW MILES FROM HERE. WE'LL STOP THERE AND GET HIM SHOED.

I DON'T LIKE IT, BUT WE GOT NO CHOICE.

SOMETIME LATER.

SALOON
CROOKED ROCK

GOOD DAY TO YOU, MRS. SMITHEE.

STUCK-UP SNOB...

WHO SHE THINK SHE IS, ANYWAY?

TREATIN' ME LIKE SOME BUM...

ONE OF THESE DAYS...

...I'LL...

ZZZZZZZZZZ

ZZZ

...Huh...
=SPUTTER=
...WHAT...

I'M LOOKIN' FOR A BLACKSMITH. YOU GOT A STABLE IN THIS TOWN?

SMITH

LIQUOR

SURE DO, MISTER. FIRST BUILDING ON MAIN IS THE FEED AND HARDWARE. GO 'ROUND BACK AND YOU'LL SEE IT.

HEY, AIN'T I SEEN YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE? WHAT'D YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS?

I DIDN'T. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.

ONE HOUR LATER.

ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ*

Oh... uh... C'N I HELP YOU?

YOU CAN. YOU SEEN AN OLD MAN WITH A YOUNG GIRL TRAVELIN' THROUGH TOWN?

MATTER OF FACT, I DID.

HEADED OVER TO THE STABLE BEHIND THE FEED STORE.

THANK YOU KINDLY.

SURE THAT'S ENOUGH?

IT'S PLENTY. DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

GOOD THING YOU CAME IN, OR YOUR HORSE WOULDA GONE LAME.

JOSEPHINE, GO INTO THE STABLE.

BUT WHY?

GO NOW, GIRL.

DO AS I TELL YOU. ***RUN.***

WE DON'T WANT NO TROUBLE. HAND OVER THE GIRL AND YOU CAN GO ON YOUR WAY.

SALOON

NO.

I DON'T THINK I WILL...

...AND I'LL WARN YOU ONCE. TURN AROUND AND GO BACK TO WHEREVER IT IS YOU COME FROM.

THE GIRL IS WANTED BY THE LAW FOR MURDER. SHE'S COMIN' WITH US TO STAND TRIAL.

SHE AIN'T GOIN' NOWHERE WITH YOU.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, OLD MAN. BUT THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

BESIDES, THEY'S TWO OF US.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

TWO AIN'T ENOUGH.

BLAM

WHUD

HE WAS GOING TO SHOOT YOU IN THE BACK.

GIVE ME THAT GUN.

REMEMBER, I SHOT ALL THREE OF THEM.

YOU HAD NOTHIN' TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS.

WHAT'D YOU DO?

THEY WERE OUT TO KILL ME AND TAKE THE GIRL. IT WAS A FAIR FIGHT. GO TELL THE SHERIFF.

WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME YOURSELF?

I TOLD YOU IT WAS HIM. YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, BUT SEE FOR YOURSELF...THREE MEN DEAD.

PUT YOUR GUN DOWN, MISTER. YOU'RE UNDER ARREST.

BACK OFF, CHARLIE. LET ME DO MY JOB.

THERE'S A REWARD OUT FOR THE GIRL. I DESERVE A SHARE.

DON'T KNOW IF YOU HAVE A WIFE AND CHILDREN, SHERIFF, BUT I'D THINK OF THEM BEFORE YOU MAKE YOUR NEXT MOVE.

THE GIRL IS WANTED FOR MURDER.

IT'S MY JOB TO BRING HER IN.

LOOK AT THOSE DEAD MEN.

ARE YOU READY TO DIE FOR THAT BADGE?

PUT YOUR GUN DOWN, WALT.

JOSEPHINE, BRING THE HORSES OVER HERE.

YOU'RE A SMART MAN, SHERIFF. DON'T DO ANYTHING STUPID.

WE'RE RIDIN' OUT OF HERE, AND YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A HERO.

YOU'RE JUST GOING TO STAND THERE WHILE THEY RIDE AWAY?

SHUT UP, CHARLIE.

HE LET US GO.

SMALL-TOWN SHERIFF.

HE WASN'T A REAL LAWMAN, JUST A VOLUNTEER WHO WANTS TO GO HOME TO HIS WIFE AND KIDS.

YOU OKAY, GIRL?

I SHOT A MAN AND KILLED HIM.

YOU KILLED HIM BEFORE HE SHOT ME IN THE BACK. YOU SAVED MY LIFE.

THEY WERE THERE TO KILL ME AND TAKE YOU BACK FOR HANGIN'. YOU DIDN'T DO NOTHIN' WRONG.

THAT'S TWO MEN I'VE KILLED.

I'M A MURDERER.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING. YOU DIDN'T ASK THEM TO COME LOOKIN' FOR YOU.

AND I'LL TELL YOU SOMETHING ELSE. YOU MAY HAVE TO SHOOT A FEW MORE BEFORE WE GET WHERE WE'RE GOING.

WEEKS HAVE PASSED.

HELLO, SHERIFF.

HELLO, McGEARY. LET ME GUESS. YOU'RE HERE TO ASK IF THE GIRL HAS BEEN CAUGHT, AND THEN THREATEN ME.

AND RUIN YOUR SUNDAY BREAKFAST? I COULDN'T DO THAT.

THEN WHAT?

WELL, CATCHING AN OLD MAN AND TWELVE-YEAR-OLD GIRL MIGHT BE TOO MUCH TO ASK.

TURNS OUT IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR THAT POSSE OF YOURS.

SO MAC HERE HAS PUT TOGETHER A POSSE OF HIS OWN.

I SEE YOU'VE BROUGHT ON A PROFESSIONAL KILLER.

THAT'S JACK HANNAH BEHIND YOU. DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE OTHERS, BUT I KNOW THE TYPE. PROFESSIONAL GUNMEN.

CALL THEM WHAT YOU LIKE.

THE GIRL NEEDS TO PAY FOR HER CRIME. THEY'LL BRING HER IN.

RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO DECIDE WHAT I'M GOING TO DO WITH YOU. YOU'RE A MAJOR DISAPPOINTMENT, WILL.

YOU KNOW, McGEARY, I'VE ALWAYS DISLIKED YOU. YOU'RE A LOUD-MOUTHED, ARROGANT THUG AND I'M DONE LISTENING TO YOU.

HERE'S YOUR BADGE.

SHERIFF

SHERIFF

AND DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN YOUR SON.

NOW I SUGGEST YOU AND YOUR "POSSE" GET OUT OF HERE AND LET ME FINISH MY BREAKFAST.

ELSEWHERE.

Damn bounty hunters.

Can't seem to shake 'em.

SOMEONE BEHIND US?

AND THEY'LL JUST KEEP COMING AS LONG AS McGEARY KEEPS THAT BOUNTY ON US.

NO WORRY, IT'LL TAKE THEM HOURS TO PICK UP OUR TRAIL. THIS RAIN WILL MAKE SURE OF THAT.

HOURS LATER.

I'M COLD, HUNGRY, AND SORE FROM RIDING. I WANT TO GO HOME.

SORRY, GIRL. TRUTH IS, YOU CAN'T EVER GO HOME. NOT THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW.

WE'LL STOP SOON. I KNOW AN OLD SHACK IN THESE HILLS. WE CAN HOLE UP THERE FOR A NIGHT AND WARM UP.

YOU HAVE A PLACE?

IT'S NOT MY PLACE, JUST AN OLD MINER'S SHACK WE USED TO USE AS A HIDEOUT.

HIDEOUT? FROM WHEN YOU WERE AN OUTLAW.

I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE. NOT PROUD OF IT.

YOU KNOW, I DID SEE YOU WHEN YOU WERE JUST A BABY. EVEN HELD YOU FOR A SPELL.

YOU WERE THE PRETTIEST LITTLE THING...

THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO NOW. NEVER SAW YOU AFTER THAT. HAD TO KEEP MOVING IN THOSE DAYS.

LAST TIME I SAW YOUR PA, HE DIDN'T WANT ME AROUND. COULDN'T BLAME HIM.

HE DIDN'T WANT ME RUBBING OFF ON YOU AND BRINGING THE WRONG KIND OF PEOPLE AROUND.

A MAN'S PAST CATCHES UP WITH HIM.

NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO TO CHANGE WHAT'S BEEN DONE OR FIX THE BAD CHOICES YOU MADE.

BUT I CAN DO ONE GOOD THING IN MY MISERABLE LIFE AND GET YOU SOMEPLACE YOU'LL BE SAFE. THAT'S WHAT I AIM TO DO.

AIN'T NOBODY TAKIN' YOU BACK, NO MATTER HOW MANY THEY SEND.

WE GOT TROUBLE.

HERE, TAKE THIS...

I WANT YOU TO RIDE INTO THOSE TREES AHEAD.

WHY? TELL ME...

DO LIKE I SAY, GIRL. STAY OUT OF SIGHT UNTIL I CALL FOR YOU.

BUT...

DO IT NOW!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, STRANGER.

KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE 'EM.

WHY ARE YOU TRAILING US?

HOLD ON... I DON'T MEAN NO HARM.

THEN YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLANATION.

START TALKING, MISTER.

THIS IS OUTLAW TERRITORY. DANGEROUS FOR A MAN TRAVELIN' ALONE.

FIGURED YOU WOULDN'T BE NO OUTLAW TRAVELIN' WITH A GIRL.

GUESS I THOUGHT ANY ROAD THIEVES WAITING UP AHEAD, YOU'D RUN INTO THEM FIRST.

WELL, AT LEAST YOU'RE HONEST.

NAME'S BILL HARTER. FRIENDS CALL ME BILLY BOY.

TWO'S BETTER THAN ONE IN THESE BADLANDS, AND YOU'VE GOT A YOUNG'UN. I'VE GOT FOOD, AND HAPPY TO SHARE.

HAND ME YOUR PISTOL AND I'LL THINK IT OVER.

FEEL A LITTLE NAKED WITHOUT IT.

I FEEL A LITTLE SAFER WITH IT TUCKED IN MY GUN BELT.

GO AHEAD, CHECK MY SADDLE-BAGS.

THAT'S MY ONLY GUN. I'M JUST LOOKING TO GET TO VALLEY CREEK ALIVE.

THE GIRL'S HUNGRY AND I'M OUT OF GRUB. I WON'T STEAL YOURS, SO IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE, WE HAVE A DEAL.

JOSEPHINE?

I don't feel so good.

SHE'S WET AND COLD. YOU NEED TO GET A FIRE GOING OR SHE'S GOING TO GET REAL SICK.

CAN'T DO THAT. WE'RE HEADED TO A PLACE NOT FAR FROM HERE.

WE'LL GET THERE BEFORE DARK AND SHE CAN WARM UP.

WELL, THEN...

...SHE CAN USE THIS.

HERE YOU GO, MISSY. WRAP THIS AROUND YOURSELF. IT'S DRY AND WARM.

THANKS, MISTER.

CALL ME BILLY.

CHEW ON THIS. A BIT OF BEEF JERKY WON'T HURT.

THAT WAS A NICE THING TO DO. YOU CAN RIDE WITH US...

...BUT I'LL HANG ON TO YOUR GUN.

SOMETIME LATER.

THERE IT IS.

AIN'T MUCH, BUT WE CAN WARM UP AND GRAB SOME SHUTEYE.

HOLD UP WHILE I CHECK FOR SQUATTERS.

ROUGH TRIP, HEY MISSY?

NOT SO BAD.

THUMP

COLD, TIRED, AND HUNGRY, BUT NO COMPLAINTS. YOU'RE A TOUGH ONE, AREN'T YOU?

WHAT GOOD WOULD COMPLAINING DO?

ALL CLEAR. C'MON INSIDE.

OKAY, LITTLE MISSY. LET'S GET YOU WARMED UP.

I'M TIRED. I JUST WANT TO SLEEP.

THEN LAY DOWN THERE BY THE STOVE. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF THE REST.

I'LL GATHER SOME WOOD AND GET THIS PLACE WARMED UP.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HORSES.

JOSEPHINE?

ASLEEP? THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

:ZZZZZZZZZZZZ:

SEVERAL HOURS LATER.

Shhhhhhhhh...

Come with me.

WHY...?

:LLLLLL:

Shhh, don't wake him up.

You saddled our horses.

Quiet.

ETHAN, STOP.

I SAID...

STOP!

JOSEPHINE, WE HAD TO GO.

WHEN HE WAS OUT COLLECTING WOOD, I SAW HIM WATCHING THE TRAIL, LIKE HE WAS WAITING FOR SOMEONE.

YOU DON'T KNOW THAT. I LIKED HIM.

WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES. GOTTA KEEP MOVING.

LATER, BACK AT THE OLD SHACK.

Billy left a good trail. They must be in that shack.

Be careful. We don't want to hurt the girl, and that old man with her is dangerous.

You think I'm dumb enough to walk into an ambush?

Just shut up. Let's get this done.

Ready?

Ready.

THUNK

WATCH OUT, HE'S GOT A GUN!

BLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBL

GOT HIM. GUESS HE AIN'T SO DANGEROUS AFTER ALL.

SHUT UP, YOU FOOL!

THIS AIN'T THE GUNSLINGER. YOU SHOT BILLY BOY!

KOFF KOFF KOFF

HANG ON, GIRL.

WE'RE COMING UP ON HOLLOW RIDGE. I'M GOING TO GET YOU OFF THAT HORSE.

I'M OKAY.

KOFF KOFF

YOU'RE NOT OKAY. BUT YOU'VE GOT SPIRIT, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

YOU NEED SOME REAL REST BEFORE YOU CATCH YOUR DEATH OF COLD.

ETHAN, WHAT IS IT?

KEEP YOUR EYES STRAIGHT AHEAD.

IT'S A HANGING!

I TOLD YOU TO LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD.

THERE'S THE HOTEL. WE'LL GRAB A ROOM AND HOPE NO ONE NOTICES US.

BY GOSH...I KNOW THAT FACE.

HOLLOW RIDGE

MY LUCKY DAY.

CAN I HELP YOU?

I NEED A ROOM.

GIRL'S A LITTLE YOUNG FOR THAT, AIN'T SHE?

SHE'S MY GRAND-DAUGHTER.

SORRY, DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'.

I'VE GOT A NICE ROOM FOR YOU.

BED FOR THE LITTLE LADY, COUCH FOR YOU. ROOM 201. ONE OF OUR BEST.

JUST SIGN THE GUEST BOOK MISTER...*uh*...DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME.

SMITH.

HOW MUCH?

TWO DOLLARS.

TWO DOLLARS? THAT'S STEEP, ISN'T IT?

IT'S A NICE ROOM.

I TOLD YOU, IT'S *THEM.*

SAW THE TELEGRAM WHEN I WAS CLEANIN' SHERIFF MILLER'S OFFICE. THERE'S A REWARD ON BOTH OF 'EM.

YOU SURE?

I'M *SURE.* THAT'S *ETHAN FULLER.*

SAW HIM TAKE DOWN A KID WHO PULLED ON HIM FIFTEEN, MAYBE TWENTY YEARS AGO. HE'S OLDER, BUT THAT'S HIM.

YOU SAY THERE'S A REWARD?

AIN'T YOU BEEN *LISTENIN'?*

I'M TELLIN' YOU THAT'S ETHAN FULLER. THERE'S BEEN A BOUNTY ON HIM LONGER THAN I CAN REMEMBER. THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD, BUT THERE HE IS IN THE FLESH.

AND THE GIRL?

THAT'S THE BEST PART. SOME RANCHER POSTED A TEN THOUSAND-DOLLAR REWARD TO THE MAN WHO BRINGS HER BACK ALIVE.

*TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS?*

HEY, WHERE YOU GOIN', ROB? WE'RE PARTNERS, AIN'T WE?

YOU REST, GIRL. I'M GOING DOWN TO GET US SOME FOOD.

YOU'RE GETTING A DECENT MEAL TONIGHT.

WILL THEY EVER LEAVE US ALONE?

'FRAID NOT.

THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW. I HAVE HISTORY WITH McGEARY.

HISTORY?

IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.

"YEARS AGO I WORKED FOR ROBERT McGEARY, THE MAN WHOSE SON YOU SHOT.

"HE WAS ENGAGED TO A PRETTY YOUNG THING NAMED PATTY. TROUBLE WAS, SHE WANTED OUT."

PATTY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

"IN THOSE DAYS I WAS A HOTHEAD, ALWAYS LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE."

SHE'S LEAVING. FOR GOOD.

FULLER, YOU WORK FOR **ME**. I'M ORDERING YOU TO GET HER DOWN OFF THAT WAGON.

THAT'S SOMETHING I'VE BEEN MEANIN' TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.

I'M LEAVIN' WITH HER.

"I'M NOT SAYIN' IT WAS RIGHT, ME STEALING HIS GIRL, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS."

IF YOU WON'T GET HER DOWN, **I WILL!**

ETHAN...

NO...

...I DON'T THINK YOU WILL.

KRAK

LIKE I SAID, WE'RE LEAVIN'.

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, FULLER.

I SWEAR, I'LL GET YOU... AND I *ALWAYS* KEEP MY WORD.

ME AND PATTY WENT WEST, FOUND A PLACE FAR FROM McGEARY.

THINGS WERE GOOD FOR A YEAR OR SO.

McGEARY MADE UP SOME STORY ABOUT ME STEALIN' FROM HIM.

WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE HAD THE LAW HUNTIN' ME.

SO YOU ***WERE*** AN OUTLAW, LIKE MY DADDY SAID.

WHEN YOU'RE TREATED LIKE AN OUTLAW, IT'S EASY TO BECOME ONE.

A LOT OF MEN TRIED TO CLAIM THE BOUNTY ON ME. A LOT OF MEN DIED.

WILL HE EVER LEAVE US ALONE?

NOT LIKELY. McGEARY NEVER QUITS ANYTHING HE STARTS.

RIGHT NOW, I'LL GET US SOME GRUB. 'BOUT TIME WE HAD A GOOD MEAL.

YOU WANT TO ORDER?
WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

NO MENU. MEAT AND POTATOES, THAT'S IT.
YOU WANT SOME OR NOT?

DIDN'T MEAN TO RILE YA. THAT'LL BE JUST FINE.

GIVE ME A DOUBLE ORDER.

THERE HE IS...

BOYS, I'D ADVISE YOU TO MOVE ALONG. I'M NOT IN THE MOOD.

THERE'S A PRICE ON YOUR HEAD, MISTER. WE'RE TAKING YOU TO THE SHERIFF.

IT DON'T MATTER TO ME IF YOU COME DEAD OR YOU COME ALIVE...

klik

...BUT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOU'RE COMIN' WITH US.

CRASH

BLAM

BLAM

DON'T SHOOT...

THEN START MOVIN'.

CRASH

JOSEPHINE...

SOMETIME LATER.

BETTER GRAB SOME SHUTEYE. WE GOT A WAYS TO GO, AND THERE'S NO TELLIN' HOW THIS GIRL WILL HOLD UP.

BLAM

HANDS UP, OR YOU'LL GET THE SAME!

WANT HER TO LIVE? COME OUT WHERE I CAN SEE YOU!

I'VE GOT THE GIRL!

LET THE GIRL GO. I'LL ONLY ASK ONCE.

FULLER? THEY WAS SUPPOSED TO SHOOT YOU!

WELL, THEY TALKED INSTEAD OF SHOOTIN'.

I'M GOING TO BACK UP WITH THE GIRL.

CAREFUL WITH THAT GUN OF YOURS. YOU WOULDN'T WANT HER TO GET HURT.

BLAM

ETHAN!

DAYS PASS WITHOUT INCIDENT.

THERE IT IS, YOUR NEW HOME.

*OUR* NEW HOME.

NOT MINE, GIRL. I'LL BE MOVING ON.

BUT I WANT YOU TO STAY!

I'D LIKE THAT, BUT IT'S NOT IN THE CARDS.

YOU BRING ME ALL THIS WAY SO YOU CAN LEAVE ME BEHIND?

NO, I BROUGHT YOU HERE SO YOU'D HAVE THE CHANCE TO GROW UP PROPER.

NOW LET'S GET GOING.

STRAIGHTEN YOURSELF UP AS BEST YOU CAN.

I'M NOT STAYING. I'M GOING WITH YOU.

ARGUMENT'S OVER.

NOK NOK NOK

ETHAN, YOU'RE FINALLY HERE.

AND THIS IS JOSEPHINE.

Oh MY, SHE'S A BEAUTY, ISN'T SHE?

JOSEPHINE, MEET PATRICIA.

CALL ME PATTY. C'MON IN. IT TOOK FOREVER FOR YOU TO GET HERE.

LET'S NOT WASTE ANY MORE TIME.

LEFT-OVER STEW. BILL JOHNSON COMES AROUND TO HELP WITH THE PLACE.

I MADE IT FOR BILL BUT HE DOESN'T EAT MUCH, SO THERE'S PLENTY LEFT.

LOTS OF CHORES AROUND HERE. I COULD USE A GOOD WORKING MAN.

ETHAN, MAYBE YOU COULD STAY A SPELL. FIX A FEW THINGS THAT NEED FIXIN'.

LET THE GIRL GET TO KNOW ME A BIT BEFORE YOU GO.

MAYBE SO..

LATER THAT NIGHT.

I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT, YOUNG LADY. YOU'RE SAFE NOW.

GOOD NIGHT, JOSEPHINE.

GOOD NIGHT, PATTY.

HOURS PASS, AND JOSEPHINE INVESTIGATES A NOISE OUTSIDE HER ROOM.

HE'S GOING TO STAY...

DAYBREAK.

Huh... WHA...

Shhhhhh... KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN.

I'M LEAVING, GIRL. I COULDN'T GO WITHOUT SAYING GOODBYE.

NO...YOU WERE STAYING! YOU CAN'T LEAVE!

DON'T WORRY, I'LL COME BACK IN A YEAR OR SO TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING.

AND PATRICIA LOVES YOU MORE THAN YOU KNOW.

BUT WHERE WILL YOU GO?

I'M GOING INTO TOWN TO GRAB A FEW THINGS, AND THEN I'LL HEAD OUT WEST.

I DON'T WANT IT.

ONE MORE THING. THIS IS YOURS.

YOU LEFT IT BACK AT THE HOTEL.

YOU MIGHT NEED IT.

PLEASE DON'T GO!

GOODBYE, GIRL.

DON'T WORRY, WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN.

MORNING.

JOSEPHINE...!

SEVERAL HOURS LATER.

THAT'S ETHAN'S HORSE.

ETHAN.

ETHAN.

HEY, LITTLE GIRL, YOU CAN'T BE IN HERE. GO ON... GIT!

ETHAN...!

DID YOU LOSE YOUR PARENTS?

I'M LOOKING FOR MY GRAND-FATHER.

AAAHHHH

LOOK, FULLER, NO ONE WANTS THIS. TELL US WHERE THE GIRL IS, AND WE CAN ALL WALK AWAY.

MIGHT AS WELL... KILL ME NOW...

OKAY, I AIN'T GONNA LIE TO YA. YOU'RE GONNA DIE HERE TONIGHT.

WE'LL FIND HER SOONER OR LATER, SO YOU MIGHT AS WELL SAVE YOURSELF THE PAIN.

MAKE YOU A DEAL. I'LL MAKE SURE NOTHIN' HAPPENS TO HER ON THE WAY BACK.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

LEAVE HIM ALONE.

I'M HERE. YOU CAN LET HIM GO.

JOSEPHINE, NO!

WELL, WELL...LOOK WHAT THE CAT BRUNG IN.

SORRY, SWEETHEART, HE AIN'T GONNA MAKE IT. HE'S GOT A BOUNTY ON HIM, DEAD OR ALIVE.

MUCH EASIER TO BRING HIM BACK DEAD.

MY NAME'S MAC, AND I WORK FOR MR. McGEARY. HE'LL BE VERY HAPPY WHEN I BRING YOU BACK FOR TRIAL.

NO...

I KNOW THIS SEEMS UNFAIR TO YOU, HIM BEING YOUR GRANDFATHER AND ALL...

...BUT LIFE JUST DON'T EVER SEEM TO WORK OUT THE WAY YOU WANT.

I KNOW THAT...

...BUT *YOU* FORGOT...

...I CAN SHOOT.

BANG

BANG

BANG

BANG

I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOOT YOU, MISTER, BUT YOU WERE GOING TO KILL MY GRANDPA.

ETHAN, I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

NO, GIRL-- I'M DONE FOR. THE GUNFIRE...WILL BRING THE SHERIFF.

JOSEPHINE... BRING ME THAT GUN.

NO. YOU'VE GOT TO GET UP. YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.

BRING ME THAT GUN... NOW.

HURRY.

HERE...

BAM

BAM

BAM

THAT SHOULD...DO IT. NOW IT'LL BE ME THAT SHOT THOSE MEN, NOT YOU.

ETHAN, GET UP!

JOSEPHINE, GO BACK...TO PATRICIA.

DON'T UNDO...THE ONE GOOD THING...I'VE DONE IN MY LIFE.

NO, YOU'VE GOT TO COME WITH ME!

Sorry, girl... not this time... go now...don't let them catch you...

ETHAN...

I THINK THE GUNSHOTS CAME FROM INSIDE.

Goodbye, Ethan...thank you.

NINETEEN MONTHS LATER.

WELL, ROBERT, YOU FINALLY GOT THE PLACE. YOU WANTED MY TWELVE ACRES LONGER THAN I CAN REMEMBER.

YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT, BEN. YOU'RE A TOUGH NEGOTIATOR.

C'MON IN AND CELEBRATE. WE'VE BOTH COME OUT WELL ON THIS DEAL, AND I'VE GOT SOME EXCELLENT BRANDY.

THANKS, BUT NOT TODAY, ROBERT. IT'S GETTIN' LATE, AND I GOT A LONG RIDE HOME.

I DON'T SEE AT NIGHT AS GOOD AS I USED TO.

HAVE IT YOUR WAY.

I'LL CELEBRATE MYSELF. FINALLY GOT THE LAND FROM THAT OLD SKINFLINT.

DRINKING ALONE? LIFE MUST BE LONELY.

WHO--

DON'T RECOGNIZE ME?

*Oh*, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'VE NEVER MET ME.

DIDN'T STOP YOU FROM SPENDING TIME AND MONEY TO SEE ME HUNG.

YOU'RE THE FULLER GIRL. YOU KILLED MY SON. NOW YOU'RE HERE TO KILL ME.

I SHOULD, BUT I'M HERE TO BARGAIN.

BARGAIN?

ETHAN WAS A GUNMAN, AND YOU'RE A MURDERER.

I WAS TWELVE WHEN I WATCHED MY MOTHER AND FATHER GUNNED DOWN BY YOUR SON AND HIS DRUNKEN FRIENDS.

BUT YOU HAVE OTHERS DOING YOUR KILLING FOR YOU. MAYBE I DESERVE TO DIE...MAYBE WE BOTH DO.

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME?

I'M THINKING ENOUGH PEOPLE HAVE DIED.

MY GRANDFATHER SAID YOU PRIDE YOURSELF IN ALWAYS KEEPING YOUR WORD.

IS THAT TRUE?

I'VE NEVER MADE A PROMISE I DIDN'T KEEP.

THEN MAKE A PROMISE NOW, AND I'LL PUT THIS GUN DOWN.

WHAT PROMISE?

I'LL TRADE YOU YOUR LIFE FOR MINE.

NO MORE KILLING. THIS IS ALL OVER.

IS IT A DEAL?

I'M NOT READY TO DIE, SO I SUPPOSE I HAVE NO CHOICE.

WE HAVE A DEAL.

THEN I WON'T NEED THIS GUN ANYMORE.

ONE MORE THING. THREE WEEKS AGO I LOST PATRICIA. I GUESS YOU KNEW HER.

*PATRICIA?* YOU WERE WITH PATRICIA?

FELL AND HIT HER HEAD. ONE MINUTE SHE WAS HERE, THE NEXT SHE WAS GONE.

I'M... SORRY TO HEAR THAT.

NOT AS SORRY AS I AM. SHE WAS MY GRAND-MOTHER.

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

I'M HEADED OUT WEST. YOU'LL NEVER SEE ME AGAIN.

The End

# GUNSLINGERS™

**A trip into town on Josephine's 12th birthday turns to tragedy when her parents are shot and killed by a group of drunken cowboys.**

That group just happens to include Andrew McGeary, the son of an influential rancher celebrating his upcoming wedding. Things go from bad to worse when Andrew arrives at the sheriff's office and pins blame for the shooting on Josephine's parents. Enraged by the lie, and traumatized by the sight of her parents' murder, Josephine unthinkingly grabs the sheriff's gun and shoots Andrew dead. Scheduled to be tried for murder, she is unexpectedly freed by the outlaw grandfather she never met. Ethan Fuller, a gunfighter long thought dead, comes out of hiding to find redemption and save the only remaining member of his family.

The action-packed Western *Gunslingers* is written by Mike Richardson, creator of *The Mask* and *Timecop*, and illustrated by artist extraordinaire Jordi Armengol.

DARK HORSE BOOKS®

**Comics & Graphic Novels / Action & Adventure**

# SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"